



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

February 25, 2008

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Deborah Tate
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Communication:
WT Docket No. 05-337

Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioner Copps, Commissioner Adelstein, Commissioner Tate, and Commissioner McDowell:

On behalf of Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi ("Governor"), this *ex parte* letter is filed in recognition of the Commission's plans to consider a *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in the above-referenced docket. The Governor had a meeting and discussion on February 22, 2008, with Commissioner McDowell concerning the importance of protecting universal service funds for wireless carriers.

Much of the State is a High Cost Area which receives USF under the 1996 Telecommunications Act's promise that all Americans are entitled to comparable telecommunications services, regardless of whether they live in an urban or a rural area. The program has brought high quality wireless service to many parts of our State which would not otherwise enjoy its benefits and are a key part of our successful economic development infrastructure. The program also helped build cell towers along Mississippi's coast and in rural areas which formed a vital part of our response following Hurricane Katrina when many landlines were down for an extended period of time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Lane".

Colby Lane
Chief Counsel to Governor Haley Barbour